

March 27, 1974

SENATOR WALDRON: Mr. President, I'd like to speak to a point of personal privilege.

PRESIDENT: State your point, Senator.

SENATOR WALDRON: Mr. President, members of the Legislature. As we enter into the planning season and the farmers are beginning to till their soil, I've noticed as I'm making my tours around the state, there's become great concern about the fuel shortage, especially diesel fuel and the shortage of fertilizer. And I'd like to address a question to Senator Schmit in regard to what the Agriculture and Recreation Committee has been doing recently in the area of trying to alleviate the fuel shortage and if he has any figures that the Agricultural Committee has come up with. And what we're going to be faced with this year in the fuel shortage and the fertilizer supply.

PRESIDENT: Senator Schmit, do you care to respond?

SENATOR SCHMIT: Well.....

PRESIDENT: He's speaking on a point of personal privilege, Senator Syas. There is nothing before the Body.

SENATOR SYAS: They have a lot of them.

SENATOR SCHMIT: Thank you, Senator Syas. We appreciate the contribution from Omaha. I'd just like to say this. That I know that the committee has done some work on this and then the Subject Committee of which I was chairman continues to gather some information. And if you'd like, I can distribute for you the recent figures which include those figures from March which show that we have imported into the State of Nebraska the first three months of this year over two million, about two and a half million more gallons of gasoline than we did during 1973. And we've imported about two and a half million more gallons of diesel fuel than we did during the same months of 1973. This represents about a 2% increase in gasoline and about a 10% increase in fuel importations. It looks to me again and you will recall about two and a half months ago, I stood here and said the fuel shortage was a contrived situation. I think the figures bear me out. I think we have plenty of fuel. The only thing is, there's going to be a tough situation that the farmers and everyone else is going to be paying a lot more for their fuel. Mr. Simon himself says it's going to cost 75¢ a gallon. I think the fertilizer situation is more critical. The fertilizer also is going to be available but at one whale of an increased price. And I think there ought to be some shouting about this because you talk about a rip-off, if that's the modern phrase, and the producers and the consumers are going to be the victims of one whale of a gouge on this situation and we ought to be apprised of it.

PRESIDENT: Well....Senator Barnett. Excuse me, Senator Waldron, go ahead. Senator Barnett, once again, the Chair wants to remind you there isn't anything before the Body. For what purpose do you rise?

SENATOR BARNETT: That's exactly what I'm going to ask you. I've got a point of order. On a point of personal privilege, we can visit all morning. I would suggest that we....that Senator Waldron go ahead and visit with Senator Schmit. He